

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

HOLIDAY TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

THE CONTENDING DELEGATES FROM UTAH—INVESTIGATING THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT—THE JEANETTE EXPEDITION—ARRIVAL OF THE CHINESE MINISTER.

The case of the Utah contested election will occupy the attention of the House of Representatives early in January. It is not improbable that Cannon and Campbell will be rejected. The investigation of the Treasury Department is proceeding slowly; it is believed that one result may be the abolition of the office of Custodian. Mr. Bennett has sent a dispatch to the Department of State, regarding the steps that are being taken to communicate with the Jeannette expedition. The new Chinese Minister arrived yesterday with his wife and the members of the Legation. Professor Cleveland Abbe gives his views at length on the establishment of a uniform standard of time.

THE UTAH CONTESTED ELECTION.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Utah contested election case presents some perplexing features, and some of the best lawyers of the House are in doubt as to the course they ought to take in regard to it. The subject is likely to give rise to an interesting debate when the resolution to send Mr. Campbell comes up in January. Mr. Campbell holds a certificate of election from Governor Murray, while Mr. Cannon has nothing but a certified statement of the returns showing that he had a majority of the votes cast. The Governor's certificate is irregular, or, at the least, unprecedented, in that it contains the clause, "being a citizen of the United States." The law gives the Governor no power to judge of the eligibility of a candidate for Congress, but commands him to give a certificate to the person having the greatest number of votes. Another statute declares that the candidate shall be a citizen of the United States; but, by universal custom and understanding, Congress and not the Governor of a State or Territory is to judge of the eligibility of the candidate in this regard as in others.

It is argued by some of Mr. Campbell's champions in Congress that the offending clause in the Governor's certificate is merely a piece of explanatory information thrown in parenthetically, being true, but still unnecessary, and therefore does not vitiate the certificate. In reply, it is contended that, without the clause, it is not a certificate, but a mere statement of fact, and that Cannon had a majority of the votes cast. It is not improbable that both contestants will be rejected—Campbell because of a defective certificate, and Cannon because he has none.

THE TREASURY INVESTIGATION.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—A hundred rumors, which are mainly or entirely false, are in circulation regarding alleged discoveries made by the Senate Committee now investigating contingent expenditures of the Treasury Department. The committee is not proceeding on the "drag-net" plan which found favor with the late Democratic Congress, but is quietly sifting the principal charges made last summer of irregular practices in the office of the Custodian of the Treasury Department, and is summoning only such witnesses as can help to explain what is obscure and to fix the responsibility for that which appears irregular. A number of "irregularities" have been proved, but it is understood that nothing has been discovered showing that any high official of the Department was cognizant of fraud.

The members of the committee are determined that the truth shall be known, and will in due time make public their proceedings. They will not, however, open their doors to the public, and will not permit the high Treasury officials of the last Administration, such a course would carry the investigation into the spring of summer. It is known that some purchases were made of articles which were paid for from the contingent fund, but which articles are not named in the contingent fund account sent to Congress. The committee has been told that the purchases of the Treasury have been made of articles which were paid for from the contingent fund, but which articles are not named in the contingent fund account sent to Congress. The committee has been told that the purchases of the Treasury have been made of articles which were paid for from the contingent fund, but which articles are not named in the contingent fund account sent to Congress.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER.

ARRIVAL OF CHENG TSAO JU, WITH HIS WIFE AND THE ATTACHES OF THE LEGATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Cheng Tsao Ju, the new Chinese Minister to the United States, arrived at the Arlington Hotel today. He was accompanied by his wife—the first Chinese lady of rank who has ever visited the country—and suite, including Chin Chi Yung, chief interpreter; Tcheng Shan Poo, French interpreter; Shee Shang Pan, secretary, and twelve attaches of Legation and eleven servants. Mr. D. W. Bartlett, secretary of the former Chinese Legation, met the party at the hotel.

Upon arrival they were immediately driven to the Arlington Hotel. The entire Legation will live at the Arlington Hotel about three weeks, and about the end of that time they expect to be able to occupy their permanent quarters, which are now being fitted up. The Minister and wife occupy a suite of rooms which were used by the late Chinese Minister, and the suite was used by the late Chinese Minister, and the suite was used by the late Chinese Minister.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

John Chew, of this city, has been appointed private secretary to the Secretary of State.

Lieutenant Commander B. H. McCalla has been ordered to special duty at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, for the purpose of supervising the construction of the new battleship, the USS Oregon.

The Japanese Minister, Yoshida Kiyomasa, accompanied by his wife, four children and several servants, will leave here on Wednesday next for Tokyo, Japan.

The Treasury Department has awarded the contract for supplying the Government with stationery to the firm of J. H. Williams, of New York City.

A UNIFORM TIME STANDARD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—In conversation with a representative of the New-York Associated Press today, regarding the proposed establishment of time ball service on the Equitable Life Insurance Building in New York City, Professor Cleveland Abbe, of the Signal Service, narrated in detail the manner in which the Chief Signal Officer has been proceeding in the matter, and pointed out the advantages which were anticipated from the service. Professor Abbe said:

It is the intention to establish this service in order that the entire shipping of the United States may act

their chronometers by Greenwich time. The question of establishing a standard time throughout the country has been agitated for several years past. The observatory which has most especially distinguished itself in this work is the Harvard College Observatory at Cambridge. For forty years that observatory has been giving time in a quiet manner to chronometer manufacturers and shippers in Boston, following the precedent of the famous observatory at Greenwich, England, from which all longitudes have been reckoned for a long time. The Professor detailed the operations of the time ball service, as now performed on the Equitable Insurance Building at Boston and the Western Union Telegraph Building at New York. The greatest error ever made by the former, he said, did not exceed a half second. This error is dropped by the observatory at Harvard College Observatory. Speaking of the New-York ball, which is dropped by an arrangement with the Washington Naval Observatory, the Professor said:

An examination of the number of large errors in the falling of this ball, sometimes amounting to five or six seconds, has convinced the Chief Signal Officer of the truth of what has long been asserted, to wit, that the time ball service is not accurate. It is not possible to give a time signal daily with the accuracy that is required for the regulation of ship chronometers. This is owing primarily to the fact that this given locality is liable to experience a long season of cloudy or hazy weather. It only rarely occurs that the sun is visible in a considerable distance apart, so that at any one time or more of them is enjoying weather favorable to the time ball service. If daily time signals are sent from all these observatories to a central clearing-house, the latter will always be prepared to send out a time signal, which is a very important matter in the rate of a ship's chronometer, which is a matter of great importance to the navigation of the world.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

NO RELIEF FOR MR. CONTENT.

DECISION OF THE GENERAL TERM OF THE SUPREME COURT TOUCHING THE UNION OF THE ELEVATED COMPANIES.

The General Term of the Supreme Court rendered yesterday a decision on the application of Mr. Content for a mandamus to compel the Metropolitan Elevated Railway to issue to him certificates for 300 shares of stock with the same guaranty by the Manhattan Company of a 10 per cent yearly dividend which the certificates surrendered by him contained. It is held that Mr. Content is not entitled to the certificates by him, and that the decision in Chambers, which Justice McKim dissented from, is affirmed. The following is the substance of the opinion:

The validity of the lease of May 20, 1879, of the property of the Metropolitan Company to the Manhattan Company has not been drawn in question in this case, and the lease will therefore be affirmed. The Metropolitan Company is entitled to a 10 per cent dividend on the capital stock of the Metropolitan Company, and the Manhattan Company is entitled to a 10 per cent dividend on the capital stock of the Metropolitan Company, and the Manhattan Company is entitled to a 10 per cent dividend on the capital stock of the Metropolitan Company.

THE JEANETTE EXPEDITION.

A DISPATCH FROM MR. BENNETT—THANKS SENT TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The State Department has just received the following dispatch from James Gordon Bennett with regard to the survivors of the Jeannette:

PAIS, Dec. 23, 1881.

Honorable FREDERICK T. FRIEDLANDER, Secretary of State, Washington:

I have just received the following telegram from my correspondent at St. Petersburg concerning the Jeannette party:

"General Ignatieff has given orders to send two new expeditions to Yakutsk in search of the shipwrecked crew, and has ordered the departure of the expedition on the 25th of September. The expedition will consist of 100 men, and will be equipped with the latest military and naval stores. The expedition will be equipped with the latest military and naval stores. The expedition will be equipped with the latest military and naval stores."

THE JEANETTE EXPEDITION.

A NEW PACIFIC EXTENSION.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The Chicago, Portage and Superior Railway Company announced today that they will begin laying their tracks on January 1. The line will run from Chicago to Superior, Wisconsin, and will be a branch of the Chicago and North Western Railway. The line will be a branch of the Chicago and North Western Railway. The line will be a branch of the Chicago and North Western Railway.

RAILROAD NOTES.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 23.—The Lenoir and Norfolk Railway Company has today sold to Edward J. Reed, the English capitalist who has recently purchased 2,000,000 acres of land in this State, and who is reported to be negotiating for the Transit Company of Florida, a controlling interest in the Jacksonville and Norfolk Railway. The line will run from Jacksonville to Norfolk, Virginia, and will be a branch of the Jacksonville and Norfolk Railway.

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FINANCES IN NEWARK.

HOW ACCOUNTS WERE MISMANAGED.

HOW THE BULK OF THE EMBEZZLED MONEY WAS OBTAINED—W. A. HALL NOT YET FOUND—COMPLICATIONS WITH OTHER CITY OFFICIALS.

The investigation of the accounts of the Auditor and Treasurer of Newark has not yet disclosed the full amount of Auditor F. A. Palmer's embezzlement, but it is made certain that the bulk of the money was obtained by him through forgery of city warrants and possibly by raising the amounts on fraudulent warrants. The only confederate in the fraud, so far shown, is William A. Hall, the chief clerk of the Auditor, who is a noted fugitive. It was expected on Thursday night after the meeting of the Common Council that a warrant would be issued for the arrest of Francis B. Allen, the lawyer who acknowledged having signed a receipt for \$5,144.12 representing a warrant to the Protestant Foster Home for award of assessment for opening and grading Mount Prospect-ave. The warrant was found to be fraudulent, no such award having been made. Allen declined to make any explanation when asked concerning it, and yesterday morning affidavits charging conspiracy were drawn up by a police justice against Allen, but were not sworn to, Alderman Therbert, chairman of the Finance Committee, who intended to make the charge against Allen, deferring action until a statement could be made by Auditor Palmer, showing how Allen's signature came to be on the receipt for the warrant.

LARGE FIRE AT RED BANK.

SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE FLAMES.

RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 23.—At 6:30 this evening fire started in the cellar of the Agricultural and Furniture Company's building in Allen's Block. In a few minutes the house was in flames. The building was a large frame structure, and contained much furniture, paint, oil, and other combustible material. The town has only hand-brake engines, which proved useless. The flames spread rapidly in both directions, there being a strong northeast wind blowing. The Central Hotel, a large brick building on the corner of Maple-ave., took fire next, and with great difficulty the firemen rescued the women and children. Part of the furniture and stock was saved. The extensive inventory of S. Ketchum, in Maple-ave., was soon after destroyed, but the horses and vehicles were saved. Flames then caught the elegant residence of Richard Applegate, a house owned and occupied by him. The house and barn were destroyed, but some of the furniture was saved. The fire spread westward along Allen's Block, destroying James F. Vanderer's jewelry establishment, Mrs. Jan. Dayton's confectionery, and Mrs. Demott, millinery and fancy goods store. A house owned by Mrs. DeForest, but occupied by Mrs. Snook and Hermann Fredericks, was also destroyed, despite the utmost efforts to save it. A number of small houses occupied by negroes, behind Allen's Block, owned by Mr. Thomas Field and Mrs. DeForest, were also burned.

THE STEAMER GRANGER BURNED.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 23.—The steamer Granger, of the Charleston and Santee line, took fire this evening while on her way to this city. She was burned to the water's edge together with her cargo, consisting of 724 barrels of cotton, 600 barrels of rosin, 25 barrels of crude turpentine, and 100 barrels of spirits of turpentine. The fire was discovered when the steamer, which was on her way to Charleston, had reached Charleston. The fire was caused by a defective boiler. The passengers consisted of six negroes, four of whom had reached the city, two are missing but are supposed to be on board of one of the vessels anchored in the harbor.

A CONFIDENT WOMAN'S PLEA.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Marion E. Dow, the broker, who is now in the County Prison under three charges of embezzlement, took the first step toward procuring liberty by certifying to the court that she is a married woman, and that she cannot make a contract, or be legally arrested, without the consent of her husband. Whenever a wife certifies to the court that she is a married woman, she is released from custody, and the court cannot hold her in custody. The court accepted her plea, and she was released from custody.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

SMALLPOX IN CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The city health officer today reported that there had been two deaths from smallpox in Chicago during the week ending yesterday.

A NEW COMPANY FORMED.

ALBANY, Dec. 23.—The New York, Vermont and Lake Champlain Railway Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000, had articles of association today.

THE HENRIETTA CANAL PROJECT.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—J. M. Allen, of Geneva, and J. H. Murphy, of Oswego, have secured a commission from the State of Illinois to study and prepare a report on the feasibility of the Henrietta Canal project.

LEAVING FOR JAIL, UNEXPECTEDLY.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 23.—All of the prisoners confined in jail at Memphis, Miss., escaped last night, and a search for them is being made. The escape was caused by a fire in the jail, which caused the prisoners to flee.

THE PHILADELPHIA CASE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Royal La Touche, who is supposed to have been connected with the transactions of Mrs. Dow, the broker, was given a hearing today, but the case was postponed.

ROBBING THE MAIL.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—William H. Howard, assistant postmaster in the post office here, has been arrested for robbing the mails. He was caught by means of a decoy letter.

BUSINESS FAILURES IN ATLANTA.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—John & Sons, clothing makers, an assignment to receivers. Lillibridge, a clothing maker, has failed. The failure was caused by a shortage of capital.

DISCOVERY OF A BEAVER DAM.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—An ancient beaver dam has been discovered in the post box on the farm of L. Bergen Thompson, near the city of New York. The dam was built by a beaver, and was found by a farmer who was searching for beaver.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Texas says that a steamer, the notorious train robber, and a black and white man, were captured at Houston, Tex. The steamer was captured by a party of men, and the black and white man was captured by a party of men.

REPEALED, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Two burglars were captured in New York City. The burglars were caught by a party of men, and were found with a large amount of stolen goods.

CONVICTED OF WIFE MURDER.

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—John F. Simpson, on trial in this city for the murder of his wife, was found guilty of the crime. The jury found Simpson guilty of first degree murder.

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WITNESSES AS COUNSEL.

MR. REED AND DR. SPIZKA FOR GUTEAU.

SHAW'S TESTIMONY CORROBORATED—TWO PROPHET MEDICAL EXPERTS DENY THEIR BELIEF THAT THE ASSASSIN WAS SANE WHEN HE SHOT THE PRESIDENT.

Charles H. Reed, of Chicago, who has appeared as a witness for the defense, yesterday formally assumed the character of counsel for Guteau. It was also found that Dr. Spitzka, who was chief expert for the defense, had become voluntary counsel for the assassin and given advice in reference to the examination of expert witnesses for the prosecution. William A. Edwards, of Brooklyn, corroborated the testimony of Dr. McLean Shaw respecting Guteau's declaration of his purpose of dying notorious, even if he had to imitate Wilkes Booth. Dr. S. H. Talcott, superintendent of the New-York State Hospital for the Insane, of Hartford, testified to his belief that Guteau was sane when he shot the President. The assassin said to Dr. Talcott: "I do not pretend that at this moment I am any more insane than you are; but I do say that on the 22d of July last, and for fifteen days before that, I was insane."

LITTLE OR NO FORCE TO KEEP THE ASSASSIN IN CHECK.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—There were unmistakable signs today that the patience of the prosecution, and the outrageous insults which Justice Cox daily permits the assassin of Garfield to heap upon the District-Attorney and the witnesses, is about exhausted. After one of the usual abusive and impudent outbursts about his "free agency" on the 22d of July, Mr. Davidge rose with an appearance of deep displeasure, and saying that there seemed to be no doubt of his "free agency" at the present time, suggested that he knew enough to behave himself in court and ought to be stopped. The only response to this was from the prisoner, who has by this time usurped most of the functions of the Judge. "I am my own counsel," he retorted, "and have as much right to talk as you have." This glittering absurdity has been repeated so often by the assassin that it has come to be accepted, apparently, by the great public outside of the courtroom, as well as by that small public of legal professionals who are to be seen in the courtroom every day to tickle his vanity by laughing at his jokes and sneering at his delusions whenever he insults the official representatives of the Government. Guteau is not his own counsel. He has no claim in law or in fact to the title. He is a prisoner, and a prisoner only, with counsel assigned to him. The Judge invariably directs witnesses to pay no attention to his questions, and this admonition is repeated by the lawyers for the prosecution whenever one of their witnesses becomes a little bewildered under his persistent and impudent persecution, and seems likely to respond. It is as a prisoner that Guteau, with a brutal sneer, asks every expert that comes on the stand whether he expects \$500 for his opinion. It was as a prisoner that he threatened to show up his wife as no better than a "street woman." It is as a prisoner that he has been allowed, by the court, to talk to his wife in the courtroom, and to have her sit beside him in the courtroom, and to have her sit beside him in the courtroom, and to have her sit beside him in the courtroom.

LITTLE OR NO FORCE TO KEEP THE ASSASSIN IN CHECK.

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